



Committee on Homeland Security Democrats **Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

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Representative Bennie G. Thompson Responds to Transit Bombings in London

“Once again, the people of London are having their resilience tested by bombers who this morning have inflicted more harm on innocent individuals. Two weeks ago, we mourned with the victims and the families of those who suffered from the 07/07 terrorist attacks. America and the rest of the world again join with England in taking a stand against those who take pride in disrupting our daily lives. We also continue to send our prayers and well wishes to the city and to acknowledge the quick actions of the first responders.

“I can only hope that we in America—particularly the Bush Administration--will take note. More must be done to secure our rail and public transit lines. The President himself has said that America’s rails, buses and roads need more protection. Yet, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff last week casually dismissed the threat to our subways and trains by saying if they suffered an attack ‘only’ 30 or so people would suffer casualties.

“We know there is no endless pot of money, but it is only reasonable that our nation spends more than six-tenths of a penny for each of our 30 million daily commuters, which is all it spends now, especially when \$9.16 daily is spent per airline passenger. Since the 9/11 attacks we’ve seen lopsided funding of roughly \$500 million for transit and rail security and more than \$4 billion *each year* for aviation security.

“It is also time to get serious about developing and implementing the national transportation security plan that the 9/11 bill directed the Department of Homeland Security to create. This plan was due to Congress on April 1, 2005—and it is still overdue. I urge the Administration and the Department to wake up and get the ball rolling. Americans deserve it.”

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